

NARRATOR: Moore, Larry
INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves
DATE: January 4, 2001
LOCATION: Boise, Idaho
PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting

Tape

Counter	Summary
000	Introduction.
010	Moore discussed his early years, before he became a smokejumper. He spent his early years in Oklahoma. A gentleman named Gaston Franks helped Moore get a job near St. Maries, Idaho, to work on a Blister Rust program. During his second summer in St. Maries, he met some smokejumpers that convinced him to apply to the smokejumping program in McCall, Idaho.
050	Moore explained, in detail, what he did as part of the Blister Rust program. It involved trying to save the White Pine in northern Idaho.
075	When he first saw Idaho, Moore thought it was beautiful and quite different from Oklahoma. Moore came to McCall from Oklahoma in 1959 by hitchhiking. He talked about his initial impression about McCall.
100	Moore began his smokejumping career on a ten-day project, cleaning trail and repairing telephone line in the forest. A veteran smokejumper, Max Allen, put Moore and the other rookies through physical training. Moore continued to describe the specific physical training involved in becoming a smokejumper.
145	Smokejumpers flipped a coin to determine who did what job, with the loser usually doing the most difficult job. Moore furnished his thoughts about "the smokejumper flip." First-year jumpers were called "neds"; Moore did not know how the name originated.
170	Moore talked about fellow, former smokejumper, Max Allen. Allen would play games and end up winning more than most of them.
195	Along with physical training, Moore mentioned the procedures involved in learning how to jump from an airplane. He talked about his first few practice jumps.
220	Moore described the mental training, including learning about the science of fire. He also discussed learning about fire from the experienced jumpers. He mentioned one particular fire on the Salmon Breaks that crowned and almost consumed several jumpers, including Moore and

another jumper, Pat Daly. Moore said he tried to teach young jumpers, as he became a veteran smokejumper.

280 Moore spent his first summer as a smokejumper in Idaho City. He talked about his first fire jump, when the first jumper out of the plane was caught in an updraft that forced this jumper to finally land after everyone else.

310 In terms of initiation or rite of passage, Moore could not recall what types of initiation were performed on him. He also did not recall what types of hazing he performed on others.

340 Moore felt that he was nervous during his first few jumps, and he said anyone who said they were not nervous were lying or crazy. He talked about a specific fire jump near Silver City, New Mexico, on the Gila National Forest.

375 With prompting from the interviewer, Moore offered his opinions on why Idaho smokejumpers fought fire in New Mexico. Moore talked about his training in Missoula, Montana, to prepare for the jumping in New Mexico.

425 Moore talked about the differences between jumping in New Mexico and Idaho.

445 Moore furnished his memories about what jumpers typically did from the moment the fire bell buzzed them onto a fire to the time they returned to McCall.

505 **END OF SIDE ONE**
TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

000 Moore talked about a typical fire, in terms of equipment used. He felt that all the equipment dropped on a fire were necessary to battle the blaze. He also talked about getting away from the fire, either by helicopter or by a packer and his mules (a pack string). Moore discussed one particular fire and the pack out.

040 Moore talked about mainly getting away from a fire by mules and a packer. He also talked about almost sliding down canyons, because of his slick-sole boots. With prompting from the interviewer, Moore described the chainsaw used in the 1960s.

065 For two years Moore smokejumped out of Alaska. He explained that in Alaska he did not dig fire line. They cut spruce boughs and beat the fire the boughs. He mentioned one fire in Alaska that they fought with the ir wet sleeping bags. He continued to discuss his time in Alaska, particularly the number of mosquitoes.

- 105 Moore gave a brief chronology of his years jumping. After McCall he worked for Central Intelligence Agency in Southeast Asia. He jumped in Alaska for the Bureau of Land Management in 1970 and 1971. He felt jumping in Alaska was easier than in New Mexico or Idaho. In Alaska jumpers could confront bears, although Moore never ran into one. He did recall some other jumpers who encountered a bear and lived.
- 195 After jumpers returned to their base, they followed a certain protocol. Moore discussed what jumpers must do when they returned to base before they could rest or jump on another fire. In New Mexico two jumpers fought three fires in one day, which Moore claimed was a record.
- 220 With prompting from the interviewer, Moore talked about food, both the food they brought to a fire and the food the cooks at the base made for them. He mentioned the food at fire camp, particularly "Wayne Webb" stew. He also talked about "the bleep bleep method" to determine when the canned goods in the fire were ready to eat.
- 275 At the McCall camp, the food was great. Moore said the best job in camp was garbage man. That person could eat for free, because they helped clean the kitchen and the married people's quarters, and the cooks and married women would feed them. Smokejumpers paid for their meals at base camp.
- 320 Moore described the different jobs that smokejumpers would do when not fighting fires. He told a story about a game among jumpers to see who would eat baby food for dinner. He also described "peeling poles," which was converting a tree into a telephone pole. He also mentioned two other dares that involved "the smokejumper flip."
- 380 On nights off smokejumpers would attend local rodeos, and they would occasionally ride the horses or bulls. Moore told a story about the one time he rode a horse bareback at a rodeo.
- 405 With prompting from the interviewer, Moore described the location of Paddy Flat, which is an area between Cascade and McCall. Moore talked about one fire near Paddy Flat, where jumpers helped carry out other fire fighters who suffered from food poisoning.
- 455 Moore talked about his impressions of McCall in the early 1960s. He thought it was a laid back, small town. He enjoyed the McCall of the 1960s. By the time Moore fought fire, gambling was not permitted in McCall.
- 485 **END OF SIDE TWO**

TAPE TWO SIDE ONE

- 000 [No introduction.] Moore mentioned the various buildings that made up the McCall smokejumper camp. Moore thought that the parachute loft was built in 1963.
- 025 During his training as a jumper, Moore did not recall whether or not smokejumpers discussed the Mann Gulch fire of 1949.
- 035 Similar to the McCall, Idaho City had a smokejumper camp. Moore jumped there his first year, and he gave his opinions about the camp and about the culture in Idaho City.
- 050 With prompting from the interviewer, Moore talked about the smokejumpers' extracurricular activities. He mentioned that some jumpers panned for gold near Idaho City. They also went to the bar or played in Payette Lake.
- 075 Moore discussed some friction or tension that arose between smokejumpers and other groups. He told one story about a particular smokejumper who never backed down from a fight, even though he was a short, skinny man.
- 100 Moore described his activities in non-fire season during his smokejumping days in McCall. He discussed some early season projects, particularly one near Jackson Hole, Wyoming. He also talked about working in Island Park for the Forest Service when a riot broke out during Fourth of July in West Yellowstone. Moore watched the riot in West Yellowstone, and he talked about some specifics from the evening.
- 195 Moore described the project in Island Park; he served as a safety officer for a group who sprayed trees to exterminate beetles from lodge pole pine trees. He talked about his role as a safety officer.
- 240 **END OF SIDE ONE**
END OF INTERVIEW

NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Allen, Max
Bureau of Land Management
Cellar, The (McCall, Idaho bar)
Central Intelligence Agency
Daly, Pat
Fairbanks, Alaska
Feather Creek (Idaho)
Franks, Gaston
Gila National Forest
Guy, Ed
Island Park, Idaho
Jackson Hole, Wyoming
Missoula, Montana
Musokgee, Oklahoma
Paddy Flat (Idaho)
Silver City, New Mexico
Sprague, Lynn
St. Maries, Idaho
Thorn Creek (Idaho)
United States Forest Service
Wagner, Oklahoma
Webb, Wayne
West Yellowstone, Montana

NARRATOR: Moore, Larry
INTERVIEWER: Troy Reeves
DATE: January 31, 2001
LOCATION: Boise, Idaho
PROJECT: Smokejumping/Forest Fire Fighting

Tape

Counter	Summary
000	Introduction.
005	Moore told the interviewer why he has continued to keep in touch with former and current smokejumpers. His current job has helped him to keep in touch with smokejumpers.
025	Moore talked about smokejumper reunion, both national and regional reunions. He and a fellow smokejumper, Barry Hicks, met and decided to work to create a national reunion. Moore continued to talk about the set up of these reunions.
075	Moore's current job is with Fire-Trol Holdings, LLC. He explained how he became involved with this company that deals with fire retardant. He also described how he bought his current home and a home across the street [Moore lived, at the time of the interview, at 1501 Allen St. in Boise, Idaho.].
105	According to Moore, there was always a strong relationship between smokejumpers and pilots.
125	For smokejumpers, good and bad fire years depended on the number of fires (and jumps) during the summer. 1964 was a bad fire year (few jumps), and 1963 was a good fire year. Moore said that when there were few fires the project work became quite monotonous. During his years as a smokejumper, Moore attended school at Northeastern State Teachers' College in Oklahoma. He would take semesters off from school to work for the forest service. He explained why he wanted to work instead of stay in school for the full year.
175	Moore took botany courses along with forestry courses at the college in Oklahoma. He also talked about taking classes at University of Arizona, which he enjoyed.
200	Moore worked for Inter-Mountain Aviation near Marana, Arizona. He explained how he came to work for this company. Moore and the narrator watched a news story about smokejumpers working for the CIA in Southeast Asia, particularly Jerry Daniels. Moore described his

relationship with Daniels and the mysterious nature of Daniels' death in 1982 in Thailand.

265 Moore worked in Southeast Asia in 1965 and 1966. He described what he did after he returned; he worked in Alaska during the summers and returned to Arizona to go to school in non-fire seasons. He then reiterated how he smokejumped in Alaska and eventually was hired in 1970 by his current employer.

290 During the middle 1960s, Moore spent one year as a student at Idaho State University. He talked about how he arrived in Pocatello and how he decided to attend school at ISU.

330 With prompting from the interviewer, Moore explained how he became interest in botany.

340 Moore offered his opinions about two major events in smokejumper history: the Storm King fire in 1994 and female smokejumpers.

375 Moore could not recall during the interview specific smokejumping stories. He then talked about the fire season of 2000 that was particularly large in Idaho and Montana.

410 According to Moore he would not trade his time as a smokejumper for anything. He then described "cargo-kicking," which is the way people would get the cargo out of the plane. He also mentioned the dangerous aspects of this job.

500 **END OF SIDE ONE**
TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

000 Moore continued describing the dangerous aspects of cargo kicking. He then described the aspects of his current job, which entails installing fire retardant equipment at forest firebases, including smokejumping bases, throughout the U.S. West.

025 **END OF SIDE TWO**
END OF INTERVIEW

NAMES AND PLACES INDEX

Boise, Idaho
Bureau of Land Management
Daniels, Jerry
Fire-Trol Holdings, LLC
Fort Wainwright, Alaska
Fort Yukon, Alaska
Hicks, Barry
Idaho State University
Inter-Mountain Aviation
McCall, Idaho
Missoula, Montana
Northeastern State Teachers' College (Oklahoma)
Pocatello, Idaho
United States Forest Service
University of Arizona